

FRANK A. LoBIONDO
2ND DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIRMAN,
AVIATION

COAST GUARD AND MARITIME
TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3002

June 14, 2016

ARMED SERVICES
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES
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COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
CHAIRMAN,
CIA
EMERGING THREATS

Linda Cruz-Carnall, Regional Director
U.S. Economic Development Administration
The Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street, Suite 140
Philadelphia, PA 19106-3323

Dear Ms. Cruz-Carnall:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support on behalf of the Cumberland County Improvement Authorization's pre-application for funding.

It is my understanding that this grant will be used to construct a Food Industry Commercialization Center at the Florida Avenue Industrial Park in Bridgeton, New Jersey. This 27,000 square foot facility will be constructed in phases and provide a state-of-art workplace for food businesses incubated at the adjacent Rutgers University Food Innovation Center (FIC).

The FIC has been in operation for more than 15 years and has provided technical assistance to over 100 food-related businesses and entrepreneurs, helping them to launch new companies and/or product lines. Currently, there is no phase II incubator facility in Cumberland County to help retain these new businesses in the area. The new proposed Food Industry Commercialization Center will provide cost effective space to develop and grow their companies.

The U.S. EDA helped fund the development of the Florida Avenue Industrial Park in the late 1990's and extend the infrastructure needed to support the Rutgers Food Innovation Center. This new \$9 million project will create workspace for between 5 and 15 new companies with a very high level of sanitary design for USDA and/or FDA inspected production. While sharing common elements such as cold storage and shipping areas, these companies can operate independently, in close proximity to the FIC, who will provide continued support and technical assistance as needed from the Rutgers staff. The Cumberland County Improvement Authority will own and maintain the building.

The City of Bridgeton has an unemployment rate approaching 10%. Its per capita income of \$13,730 places it just ahead of the City of Camden as the lowest in the State. Both the

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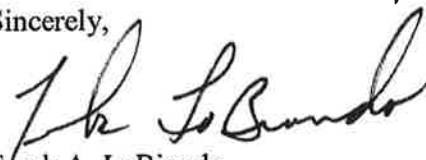
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City and County have income levels and unemployment rates that make them eligible for U.S. EDA funding and I hope this project will garner your support.

I look forward to your consideration of this pre-application and hope that the County Improvement Authority will be invited to submit a full application for funding.

Thank you for your ongoing support for projects in our region. The U.S. EDA is making a real difference in the lives of people and the future of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank A. LoBiondo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" and last name "LoBiondo" clearly distinguishable.

Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress

FAL:cm:ml

cc: Jeannine V. MacDonald

Sent 6/20